

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed May 4, 2010, in the above-identified application. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) accompanies this Amendment. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 were previously pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 16-20 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are currently pending, with claims 1, 16 and 18 being independent claims. The amendments find clear support in the original application at least in the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 8 and continuing on page 9. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Willmore (US 2003/0179156) in view of Honkonen et al. (US 6,681,764). The rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Willmore discloses an interactive multi-user display arrangement for displaying goods, services and information to the public (paragraph 0002). The arrangement is described as a "video wall" that includes a two-dimensional array of monitors and terminals for display information and for allowing user interaction to occur in a commercial environment. Willmore further discloses an arrangement of individual personal computers for use as information input and output devices. The personal computers are shown as interactive screens and input devices (i.e., keyboards and touch screens) that are arranged as a row below a matrix of a display region (FIGs. 1 and 5, and paragraph 0043).

Honkonen discloses a control system for a home ambulatory liquid oxygen system having an oxygen concentrator, a condenser, a cryocooler, a heater and a storage dewar (Abstract). The control block diagram of FIG. 6 shows a mode switch and an indicator connected to a controller. Honkonen states that the liquid level in the dewar is continuously displayed by the indicator (col. 6, lines 33-34 and col. 10, lines 29-34 and 48-51).

Amended claim 1 is directed to a display and control device for medical equipment and recites, in part, a configuration device which is connected with the electric bus and which, after

connection of a display/control unit to the electric bus, transmits to the display/control unit configuration data determining display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the medical equipment, wherein the configuration data further comprises an identification of a medical unit connectable to the electric bus from which data values are to be received, a criteria for evaluating the received data values and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values.

Willmore may be considered to teach a plurality of display screens and terminals built into a supporting rack structure (paragraph 0045). The multi-user display arrangement is used for interactively displaying goods, services and information to the public (paragraph 0002). However, Applicants fail to understand how, absent knowledge of the present invention, the disclosure of Willmore can reasonably be interpreted as teaching a display and control device for medical equipment, as claimed, where Willmore describes a display arrangement for public use and display for entertainment purposes, such as in a kiosk (paragraph 0026).

In particular, Applicant submits that Willmore, which relates to a display arrangement for displaying goods and services to the public, in public places such as airports, bus terminals, etc., is not in the same field of endeavor as the present invention, which relates to a display and control device for medical equipment, such as life support systems. It is doubtful that anyone ever seriously considered displaying data of life support systems in public places, let alone controlling the operation of such a system from a public place. Further, while Willmore describes a supporting rack structure, Willmore contains no disclosure of a base unit having *a plurality of connector devices*, as claimed. The connector devices facilitate replacement and/or moving of the display/control units according to features of the invention (see page 9, second paragraph, of the present application).

In any event, Willmore fails to disclose a configuration device which *transmits to the display/control unit configuration data determining display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the medical equipment*, as required by amended claim 1. A computer which transmits video data to a display device for generating a display, as described by Willmore, is very different from a configuration device

which configures a display/control unit for subsequent operation with medical equipment, as claimed.

Honkonen does not provide the teachings that are lacking in Willmore. In particular, Honkonen contains no teaching of a display/control unit as claimed and does not disclose or even remotely suggest a configuration device that transmits configuration data to a display/control unit for configuring the display/control unit, as claimed.

As set forth in the previous response, Applicants submit that the combination of Willmore and Honkonen is improper and should be withdrawn. The video wall of Willmore, holding a matrix of video display monitors and terminals for public display and entertainment, has no relation to and would provide no benefit to the user of the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system of Honkonen. There is no reason whatever to connect the video wall of Willmore to the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system of Honkonen. Applicants further submit that there would be no reasonable expectation of success in combining the video wall of Willmore and the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system of Honkonen (see MPEP §20143(G)). For these reasons, the combination of Willmore and Honkonen is improper and should be withdrawn.

For at least these reasons, amended claim 1 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Willmore in view of Honkonen. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

New claims 16-20 recite a plurality of configurable display/control units and a configuration device which transmits configuration data to a display/control unit, wherein the configuration data establishes display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the medical equipment and wherein, after receiving the configuration data from the configuration device, the display/control unit operates independently of the configuration device and communicates directly with the medical equipment.

As should be apparent from the above discussion, new claims 16-20 are clearly and patentably distinguished over Willmore in view of Honkonen.

Based upon the above discussion, claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Docket No. H0075.70110US00.

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Respectfully submitted,

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